United Nations A/C.5/52/26

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 December 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 160

Admission of the International Seabed Authority to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 52nd meeting, on 24 November 1997, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Admission of the International Seabed Authority to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee. The Permanent Representative of Jamaica had requested the inclusion of the item and, in the explanatory memorandum accompanying her request (A/52/233, annex), provided background information on the application of the International Seabed Authority for admission to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. Guyana supported the request (see A/52/233/Add.1).

2. The requirements for membership in the Fund are set out in article 3, paragraphs (b) and (c), of the Regulations of the Fund, which read as follows:

> "(b) Membership in the Fund shall be open to the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and to any other international, intergovernmental organization that participates in the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.
>
> "(c) Admission to membership in the Fund shall be by decision of the General Assembly, upon the affirmative recommendation of the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension] Board, after acceptance by the organization concerned of these Regulations and agreement reached with the Board as to the conditions which shall govern its admission."

3. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Fifth Committee a note by the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board concerning the application of the International Seabed Authority, which had been considered by the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its meeting held from 30 June to 2 July 1997.

97-34405 (E) 021297 031297

Annex

Note by the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, prepared after consultations with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Board

1. The application of the International Seabed Authority for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund was considered by the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its meeting held from 30 June to 2 July 1997, on the basis of an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

2. At its forty-seventh session, in July 1996, the Board had decided to delegate to the Standing Committee consideration of a possible application by the International Seabed Authority for membership in the Fund. Accordingly, at its meeting held from 30 June to 2 July 1997, the Standing Committee was advised, through a letter dated 27 August 1997 from the Secretary-General of the Authority, that the Assembly of the Authority had decided to apply for membership in the Fund as from 1 January 1998.

3. Since the International Seabed Authority was clearly an "international intergovernmental organization", having been established in 1994 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by the parties to that Convention, and adhered to the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations, the Standing Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the application of the Authority for membership in the Fund as from 1 January 1998. The Standing Committee noted that, to be considered, the item would have to be added to the agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, as the item "United Nations pension system" was not on the agenda of the Assembly in odd-numbered years.

4. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Board, the Fifth Committee may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the application by the International Seabed Authority for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, effective as from 1 January 1998.